

## Going Back to College: Undergraduates Who Already Held a Postsecondary Credential

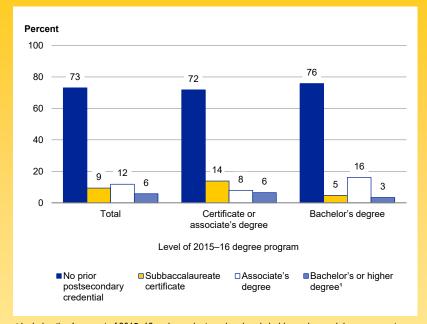
This Data Point presents the percentage of undergraduates who already held a postsecondary certificate or degree while enrolled in 2015–16 and examines the current field of study among those who held a bachelor's or higher degree. All estimates are disaggregated by students' current type of degree program. The Data Point is based on data from the 2015–16 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:16), which surveyed a nationally representative sample of all undergraduates enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico any time between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016.

What percentage of 2015–16 undergraduates already held a postsecondary credential, and how did this vary with the type of their 2015–16 degree program?

Of the 19.5 million 2015–16 undergraduates, 6 percent already held a bachelor's or higher degree. In addition, 12 percent already held an associate's degree, and 9 percent held a subbaccalaureate certificate as their highest prior credential (**figure 1**). Seventy-three percent had no prior postsecondary credential.

Among 2015–16 students in subbaccalaureate certificate or associate's degree programs, 6 percent already held a bachelor's or higher degree. In comparison, 3 percent of students in bachelor's degree programs already held a bachelor's or higher degree.

FIGURE 1. Percentage distribution of undergraduates' highest prior earned credential, by current type of degree program: 2015–16



<sup>1</sup> Includes the 1 percent of 2015–16 undergraduates who already held an advanced degree or post-baccalaureate certificate.

NOTE: The 3 percent of undergraduates who were not enrolled in a certificate or degree program in 2015–16 are included in the total but not in the distributions of students by certificate or degree program. Estimates include undergraduate students enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Standard error tables are available at

https://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2019431

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2015–16 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:16).

Data in this report are from the nationally representative National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS). To learn more, visit <a href="https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/npsas">https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/npsas</a>. For questions about content or to view this report online, go to <a href="https://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2019431">https://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2019431</a>.





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## NOTICE REGARDING CHANGE OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

This is in response to the Power of Attorney filed 05/07/2007.

 The Power of Attorney to you in this application has been revoked by the assignee who has intervened as provided by 37 CFR 3.71. Future correspondence will be mailed to the new address of record(37 CFR 1.33).

571-272-2555 Office of Initial Patent Examination (571) 272-4000, or 1-800-PTO-9199 **OFFICE COPY**